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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2008

1 MR. BRANDON: We'll call the meeting to
2 order. Before we get started, I want to have the
3 invocation, as we always do, and call on the Lord.
4 I'll ask Robert Goff if he would come up and give us
5 the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of
6 Allegiance, please.

7 (Thereupon, the invocation and
8 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

9 MR. BRANDON: This is the regularly
10 scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission
11 which takes places on the first Thursday of every
12 month. Proper notice of this meeting was given to
13 the legal organ of Dade County and has been posted
14 in the hallway of the Administration Building. I'll
15 call the roll and have it recorded by the clerk.
16 Mr. Lowery?

17 MR. LOWERY: Here.

18 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

19 MS. MOORE: Here.

20 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

21 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

22 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

23 MR. YOUNG: Here.

24 MR. BRANDON: And the chair is present.
25 We have a forum and, therefore, a legal meeting.

1 The reading of the minutes of the
2 December 2007 regular meeting will not be required
3 since all commissioners have been furnished copies
4 in advance. The minutes are public record and
5 available for review in the county executive's
6 office. The minutes are included in the consent
7 agenda. I'll ask at this time the clerk to read off
8 the items that are in the consent agenda that was
9 compiled in the work session.

10 MR. TOWNSEND: Like you said, the
11 minutes are in the consent agenda as well as
12 approval of the purchase of a roll-off truck for the
13 Transfer Station from Long Lewis Sterling at a price
14 of \$99,949, amendment to the flood damage prevention
15 ordinance as the final reading, approval of a
16 resolution granting administrative authority to
17 verify license are properly affixed in compliance
18 with the state and county for the code enforcement
19 officer in reference to the ABC Board, the beer
20 board, approval of the 2008 qualifying fees for
21 county government office holders and I believe
22 that's it.

23 MR. BRANDON: Good. Thank you.
24 Approval of the consent agenda requires a vote. Do
25 I hear a motion we approve the consent agenda?

1 MR. YOUNG: I make a motion we approve
2 the consent agenda.

3 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I
4 have a second?

5 MR. PITTMAN: I'll second that.

6 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a
7 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

8 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

9 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

10 MS. MOORE: Yes.

11 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

12 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

13 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

14 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

15 MR. BRANDON: And the chair votes yes.

16 I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas
17 and a Happy New Year. Before we get started, I want
18 to make an announcement. We had a loss in our
19 community here a couple of days ago. Mrs. Ruth
20 Bradford, the wife of Fred Bradford and the mother
21 of all the Bradford boys that I went to school with
22 and grew up with, died a couple of days ago and she
23 is at the Moore Funeral Home. This is a loss for
24 the family, I'm sure, and a loss for the community.
25 The good news is everybody knows where she is right

1 now. She's with the Lord and I'm sure they're going
2 to miss her, but our prayers -- we should remember
3 the family in our prayers and our condolences go out
4 to them.

5 First up under appearances, we have
6 Mayor Emanuel, City of Trenton. I'll ask him to
7 come forward.

8 MR. EMANUEL: It's January 3rd, a
9 week hasn't even gone. Y'all sure look gloom and
10 worried, stressed out. Maybe the bills came in. It
11 did at our house anyway.

12 MR. BRANDON: It's the reality of those
13 resolutions hitting home for some of us.

14 MR. EMANUEL: We are pleased to present
15 on behalf of my fellow City Commissioners the
16 following information regarding the year-end
17 performance for the City of Trenton. In any
18 endeavor, whether its city government, county
19 government, private business, what have you, there
20 are five broad general areas that you should pay
21 attention to if you're going to be successful.
22 Those five areas are safety, quality, yield,
23 productivity and then cost.

24 Without getting into specifics and
25 boring you, let me give you some summary statements

1 for those five areas as they relate to the City of
2 Trenton. In safety, we ended the year without lost
3 time accident, which is a significant
4 accomplishment.

5 In the area of quality, the quality of
6 work performed by City employees exceeded or met our
7 quality assurance guidelines. In the area of yield,
8 we measure yield in dollars within the City and our
9 total expense dollars were less than our total
10 revenue dollars, which meant we yielded a financial
11 surplus. We've talked in these meetings about a
12 contingency fund. That's what we're talking about.

13 Productivity, total throughput exceeded
14 standard operating procedures standards. That is
15 more work was done with less people. More work was
16 done with less man hours expended. And then the
17 area of cost, our total cost per capita, in other
18 words, total cost of the City per citizen of Trenton
19 was significantly less than the last year due to
20 improved safety, quality yield and improved
21 productivity.

22 Our City Council meeting is Monday,
23 January 7th. Work session is at 7:00. The
24 regular meeting begins at 7:00 and on behalf, again,
25 of my fellow City commissioners, we pray that all of

1 our fellow Dade Countians will with the grace of God
2 have a very prosperous new year.

3 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Mayor.

4 Next under appearances, we have Debbie
5 Tinker from the Chamber of Commerce.

6 MS. TINKER: Good evening. First of
7 all, I'd like to thank all of y'all for your support
8 this past year for the Chamber and helping make it
9 possible for me to work for them. We want to thank
10 you for each of you being present at many of our
11 activities with the Chamber and we'd also like to
12 thank the community for coming out and supporting us
13 in those activities. You can't have an activity if
14 no one comes. But most of all, too, we would like
15 to thank our media because without them, we couldn't
16 get it out to everyone what the Chamber is doing and
17 how we're trying to benefit through working with
18 other organizations to make Dade County better for
19 all of us.

20 I have made a copy of our quarterly
21 report. It does have our web site stats included in
22 this for the year and also our contacts to the
23 Visitors Center and to the Chamber for business
24 information, tourist information and those copies
25 are back here for everybody, if you would like one.

1 I won't bore you with a lot of the things you've
2 already read about, heard about such as the
3 Christmas parade, Dukes of Hazard that's happened
4 this quarter, but we have started off the year with
5 some new board members and I would like to tell you
6 about those. Three are interim board members. They
7 did serve some last year, Dr. Robert D. Young. He's
8 the owner of Forensic Recovery Company and also an
9 adjunct professor. Melanie Parrish, she's on the
10 board of the Dade County Library. Shawn Roberts,
11 he's with human resources at National Boiler and
12 also Sheryl Parrish. She's a member of DART and she
13 trains medical transcriptionists. All of those will
14 be great additions to the great board we've had this
15 year. Each one has offered something, worked hard.
16 We couldn't have had a better one. And next year I
17 think is going to be even more so.

18 Some of things that we do have coming
19 up, y'all have read in the paper, I'm sure, about
20 the entrepreneur friendly designation. Don Townsend
21 has been coming to the Chamber. We're going to be
22 starting our committee meetings. We'll be going out
23 to visit 25 different businesses, interviewing,
24 seeing what the community has to offer to these
25 people, how we help them set up businesses, what

1 we're lacking here, ways that we could help them
2 better.

3 Also, the Chattanooga Metropolitan
4 Airport Authority has asked us to be on their
5 advisory committee and help them with their airport
6 master plan. So we thought this was very good that
7 Dade County was included in this.

8 Lookout Mountain Parkway Association is
9 making a new map, new brochure. This will help
10 during Antique Alley, world's longest yard sale.
11 Our Chamber web site, one of the biggest -- let's
12 see if I can say this right. When you get hits from
13 another web site, the hits we've gotten from other
14 web sites have come more from Tour Dekalb, Alabama
15 promoting this area. So that's -- we know this is a
16 very important association, where our tourist people
17 are coming and what they want to know. The rest, I
18 think, is in here for you to read and thank you
19 again, each and every one of you.

20 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Debbie.

21 Moving on to fiscal matters, I'll ask
22 the county clerk to read the financial report,
23 please, sir.

24 MR. TOWNSEND: Under tab number one,
25 you see January 1st, drug education fund has a

1 balance of \$97,989; federal asset fund, 10,853;
2 special sheriff's fund, 27,595; jail fund, 4,052;
3 juvenile services fund, 11,658; victim assistance
4 fund, 4,377; payroll account, 39,883; general fund,
5 133,590. We have in the principal and interest
6 account currently 299,913, with the principal and
7 interest CDs there listed. And also capital bond
8 fund we have 577,601 and the checking account,
9 again, with the certificate of deposits listed
10 there. And the fire departments, you can see those
11 listed individually. Most of them have used their
12 S.P.L.O.S.T. We still have South Dade that has a
13 little bit of funds left and the amount in the use
14 at this time is zero. That was paid in December.

15 Page two is the name of the certificate
16 of deposits. We have some left in principal and
17 interest and also capital bond. Page three are the
18 redeemed certificates and renewed certificates of
19 deposit. Page four, there's currently no general
20 fund certificate of deposits. That may be something
21 that y'all would like for us to do. Most of the tax
22 money has now come in for the year. We may want to
23 invest a little bit of our general fund proceeds.

24 Page five you see is the breakdown by
25 departments. This is as of 12/31 and that means the

1 budget attained is at 100 percent. Revenues
2 attained was at 100 percent, 100.82 percent, which
3 that's a year ago guessing how much money we would
4 bring in, so we got it pretty close. We got it
5 within \$64,000 out of \$7.5 million. And then
6 expenses obtained has been for 2007, 97.72 percent.
7 Now, what that means is county wide, we've received
8 revenues less expenses year-to-date, 329,272. Of
9 course, these are unaudited financials, but after
10 those financials have gone through that audit
11 process, we're hoping that that money, 329,272 can
12 go toward the fund balance, so that's a good thing.
13 That's positive.

14 We can -- the next pages after that is
15 just a breakdown of the variance report for each
16 revenue category and expense category.

17 MR. BRANDON: Don, when we -- I know we
18 had this discussion a few weeks ago about the
19 revenues, tax revenues from the Tax Commissioners
20 Office. If you could -- when we get a feel from
21 Ms. Moreland about what the check size is going to
22 be, and I expect it will be significant, if you
23 could make a recommendation at the next meeting
24 about what we should do with those as far as buying
25 CDs to invest those to try to get some interest on

1 that until we need it, look at our cash flow to make
2 sure that we have -- we can meet our obligations.
3 If you can do that since you're our resident banker
4 here. Thank you, Don.

5 Moving on to legal matters, I'll look
6 to the county attorney and ask if we have any
7 outstanding legal matters and ask the usual question
8 about the status of our lawsuit against the county.

9 MR. ROGERS: There are no new legal
10 matters. The lawsuit does come up for the
11 appearance docket at the end of this month at which
12 time I and the attorneys for Mr. Blevins will be
13 able to bring to the Court's attention, but I don't
14 expect any sort of action to be taken at that time.

15 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Good. Thank you.

16 Under unfinished business, I will ask
17 the other commissioners if we have any unfinished
18 business that you know of. Seeing everybody nodding
19 their head in the negative -- new business, we have
20 no new business that resulted from the work session,
21 which brings us to citizen participation. Is there
22 anyone that would like to address their fellow Dade
23 Countians? Yes. The chair recognizes Mr. Goff.

24 MR. GOFF: Thank you. I would like to
25 take just a moment to read a prepared statement, if

1 I may. My name is Robert Goff. I'm here tonight to
2 represent the Dade County Citizens Watch Group.

3 This will serve as an official statement concerning
4 our recent petition signature drive. As we said in
5 the very beginning, we will stand at the end and
6 give an honest account of our efforts. We promised
7 that there will be no hidden truths, no untruths or
8 no inflated numbers that could not be verified for
9 the public if needed.

10 It is with regret that I must inform
11 the citizens who did sign our petitions and wanted
12 positive change that our efforts left us short of
13 our goal. We were given a deadline and a number of
14 signatures to obtain. We did not get the required
15 number in the set time frame. We have met with
16 Mr. Martin Scott and through him, thank both him and
17 Senator Mullis for their guidance and support of our
18 efforts. We have nothing -- no remarks against them
19 as they were both fair and forthright with us. We
20 rather commend them for their concern for what is
21 going on in Dade County.

22 The number of signatures will not be
23 disclosed at this time or perhaps at any other time
24 except to our group and Mr. Scott and Mr. Mullis if
25 they so desire to know. We will say, however, that

1 the signatures that were gathered came from every
2 voting district and every group of people
3 represented in this county.

4 Some of you will say that we failed.
5 We would rather think that it was -- as it was said
6 by Mr. Thomas Edison when he was looking for the
7 right substance for the filament of the light bulb.
8 After trying a hundred things that wouldn't work,
9 someone told him that he had failed a hundred times.
10 Mr. Edison replied I have not failed once, I've
11 simply found a hundred things that did not work.

12 We believe that one only fails when one
13 ceases to try. These two issues are still very
14 important to our group and to the citizens of Dade
15 County. Therefore, we are committed more than ever
16 to be proactive rather than reactive. We will be
17 out and about over the next year making sure that
18 voters are informed about issues that impact the
19 future of our county, issues like S.P.L.O.S.T
20 requests, candidates for office, budgets and any
21 other issues that may need to be brought to the
22 public.

23 I would like to remind people that even
24 though we failed short on getting the issue on the
25 ballot concerning at large voting, that any citizen

1 can go into any other district other than their own
2 and campaign for a candidate in that district, help
3 get the name of the right person out to the voters
4 of any district that will elect commissioners or any
5 other public servant this year. There may be some
6 here tonight that are planning on running for these
7 offices and they need to know that wherever we live,
8 we care.

9 I would like at this time to thank
10 members of the DCCW who have worked hard, especially
11 in my absence while I was in Romania. You're to be
12 commended for your work.

13 Finally and perhaps more importantly, I
14 would like to say to the citizens, there are, I'm
15 sure, some here tonight and certainly have been in
16 the past months that are very caring citizens. You
17 attend church. Your children attend schools. You
18 live, work and pay taxes in Dade County, yet you
19 don't speak to another person because you disagree
20 on some issues. If this is true among friends or
21 perhaps even family members, how much more is it
22 true among neighbors? Friends and neighbors don't
23 or at least shouldn't attack one another in blogs
24 and letters over different viewpoints. Issues
25 should bring us together and not force us apart. I

1 have told many of you that if we can't disagree on
2 issues and still be friends, then we're both wrong.

3 The Dade County Citizens Watch will
4 continue to be open in our efforts to bring issues
5 to the people. It is our hope that we can work
6 positively with members of our government and other
7 public interest groups. We believe that even though
8 we may not always agree on every issue, that we can
9 work together to get both sides of an issue out to
10 the public to help citizens and voters be able to
11 make a better, informed decision.

12 It should be the goal of every citizen,
13 every member of government, every civic group to
14 work together for the betterment of Dade County, its
15 present and its future. As we begin a new year, let
16 us get a new vision of our county and bring pride
17 and peace and prosperity to all of its citizens.
18 The best advice we received during the meeting with
19 Martin Scott was to pray about any and all issues.
20 I urge us to take this advice to heart and try it
21 first. We need to pray first, think twice and then
22 pray again before we take action.

23 This will serve as our final release to
24 the press on behalf of DCCW. You may print it,
25 broadcast it, but at this time, no other information

1 on our petition drive is forthcoming. Thank you.

2 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Robert.

3 Anyone else? Seeing no other hands and there being
4 no further business before the Dade County
5 Commission, we stand adjourned until next month or
6 until the special-called meeting on January 14th.

7 Thank you very much.

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9 END OF MEETING
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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF TENNESSEE)
3 COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

4
5 I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and
6 Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the
7 State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that
8 I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had
9 in the above-styled cause on the 3rd day of

10 January, 2008;

11 That the said proceedings were
12 reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;
13 and that the foregoing is a transcript of said
14 proceedings.

15 This the 27th day of January, 2008.

16
17
18
19
20 Erin M. Flatt
Erin M. Flatt, Notary Public
21 in and for the State of
Tennessee at Large.
22 My commission expires
23 November 7, 2010.

